

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 OMB-01

SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SREF, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI DROUGHT

REF: MOGADISCIO 0617

1. I MET ON MAY 5 WITH DROUGHT RELIEF DIRECTOR AHMED JAMA ABDULLE, WHO IS ALSO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MININTERIOR, TO DISCUSS SOMALI DROUGHT SITUATION. HE WAS SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SPRING RAINS.

2. ACCORDING TO AHMED JAMA, SPRING RAINS HAVE NOT ARRIVED IN SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO GUARANTEE SEPTEMBER HARVEST. WHILE INITIAL RAINFALL ENCOURAGING, RAINS WERE FOLLOWED BY SPELL OF TORRID WEATHER WHICH NOW THREATENS TO BURN AWAY APRIL PLANTINGS UNLESS RAINS FALL WITHIN WEEK. IF THEY DON'T, THEN SEPTEMBER

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HARVEST WILL FAIL AND DROUGHT EMERGENCY WILL CONTINUE ANOTHER

YEAR. (FYI IDENTICAL PESSIMISTIC REPORT HAS REACHED US FROM ADC DIRECTOR WHO WAS DISCUSSING SERIOUSNESS OF DROUGHT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES END FYI) HE WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW MORE FINAL CONCLUSIONS WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. AHMED JAMA SAID THAT ONLY TWO REGIONS HAVE ESCAPED INADEQUATE RAIN: WAQOOYE (FORMERLY NORTHWEST REGION) AND GEDO (FORMERLY PART OF UPPER JUBA). IN THESE TWO AREAS, RAINFALL HAD BEEN GOOD.

4. AS OF MAY 4, APPROXIMATELY 243,000 REFUGEES WERE LOCATED IN TWENTY CAMPS. THEIR NUMBERS INCREASING EVERY DAY. DROUGHT RELIEF COMMITTEE WOULD SOON BEGIN EVACUATING THESE REFUGEES TO RESETTLEMENT SITES. USING MAP, AHMED JAMA DESCRIBED GENERAL RESETTLEMENT SCHEME IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

A. ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THOSE NOMADS WHO HAVE NO RPT NO ANIMALS LEFT WOULD BE RESETTLED AS FARMERS, PRINCIPALLY IN LOWER JUBA.

B. REMAINING NOMADS WITHOUT ANIMALS WOULD BE SHIPPED TO CLOSEST COASTAL AREAS WHERE FISHING COMMUNITIES NOW LOCATED FOR RESETTLEMENT. HE IDENTIFIED APPROXIMATELY FIVE TO SIX SUCH LOCATIONS FROM LAS KORAH TO MAREGH.

C. THOSE FEW NOMADS WITH ANIMALS REMAINING WOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO PASTURES.

5. AHMED JAMA SAID MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING GSDR AT PRESENT WAS LACK OF TRANSPORT TO GET CAMP POPULATIONS TO RESETTLEMENT LOCATIONS. GSDR TRANSPORT TRUCKS HAD BEEN BOUNCED TO PIECES IN GETTING REFUGEES AND FOOD SUPPLIES TO CAMPS AND NOW THEY WERE INADEQUATE TO SHIFT CAMP POPULATIONS. NEVERTHELESS GSDR INTENDED MOVE AHEAD IN RESETTLING REFUGEES, SINCE EXTENDED STAY IN CAMPS WITH ALL FACILITIES PROVIDED WOULD ENCOURAGE WELFARE STATE MENTALITY. THESE PEOPLE NEEDED TO BE PUT TO WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. ONCE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES RESETTLED IN NEW AREAS, THEN REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION CYCLE WOULD BEGIN, UTILIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEMES REFLECTED IN FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1974-78). GSDR WOULD SOLICIT HELP FROM FOREIGN DONORS, LIKE US, TO HELP FINANCE REHABILITATION.

7. I TOLD AHMED JAMA THAT, WHILE WE WOULD CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY HELP WE MIGHT CONTRIBUTE IN EVENT RAINS DON'T FALL AND DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONTINUES, I WAS SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RESUMPTION US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. I TOLD HIM THERE WERE SERIES OF OUTSTANDING

BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE US COULD CONSIDER
CONTRIBUTING TO SOMALI REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION.

8. I ENUMERATED FOR HIM FORTHCOMING SHIPMENTS AND ARRIVAL DATES
OF BULGAR WHEAT (10,000 MT), SORGHUM (5,000 MT) AND CORN SOYA
MILK (2,000 MT). I ASKED HIM TO KEEP ME INFORMED AS TO PROGRESS
OF RAINS, PROSPECT OF SEPTEMBER HARVEST AND HIS CONCLUSIONS
REGARDING CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY PERIOD. HE PROMISED TO DO
SO.

HAMRICK

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